

REPORT / RECOMMENDATION



To: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Agenda Item #: IV. I.

From: Wayne D. Houle, PE, Director of Engineering

Action ☒

Date: August 20, 2013

Discussion ☐

Information ☐

Subject: Traffic Safety Report Of July 3, 2013

Action Requested:

Review and approve the Traffic Safety Committee Report of July 3, 2013.

Information / Background:

The Edina Transportation Commission (ETC) reviewed the July 3, 2013, Traffic Safety Committee Report at their July 18 meeting and moved to forward the report to the City Council for approval, see attached draft minutes.

Attachments:

Traffic Safety Committee Report of July 3, 2013
Draft ETC Meeting Minutes of July 18, 2013

REPORT / RECOMMENDATION



To: Edina Transportation Commission

Agenda Item #: VI. D.

From: Byron Theis – Traffic Safety Coordinator

Action ☒

Discussion ☐

Date: July 18, 2013

Information ☐

Subject: Traffic Safety Committee Report of July 3, 2013

Action Requested:

Review and recommend Traffic Safety Committee (TSC) Report of Wednesday, July 3, 2013, be forwarded to City Council for approval.

Information / Background:

It is not anticipated that residents will be in attendance at the meeting regarding any of the attached issues. An overview of the comments from the Edina Transportation Commission (ETC) will be included in the staff report provided to Council for their August 20, 2013, meeting.

Attachments:

Traffic Safety Committee Report for July 3, 2013.

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

Wednesday, July 3, 2013

The Traffic Safety Committee (TSC) review of traffic safety matters occurred on July 3. The Director of Engineering, Public Works Director, the Assistant City Planner, the Transportation Planner, Sign Coordinator, and Traffic Safety Coordinator were in attendance for this meeting.

From these reviews, the recommendations below are provided. On each of the items, persons involved have been contacted and staff recommendation has been discussed with them. They were informed that if they disagree with the recommendation or have additional facts to present, they can be included on the July 18, Edina Transportation Commission and the August 20 City Council agenda.

SECTION A:

Requests on which the Committee recommends approval:

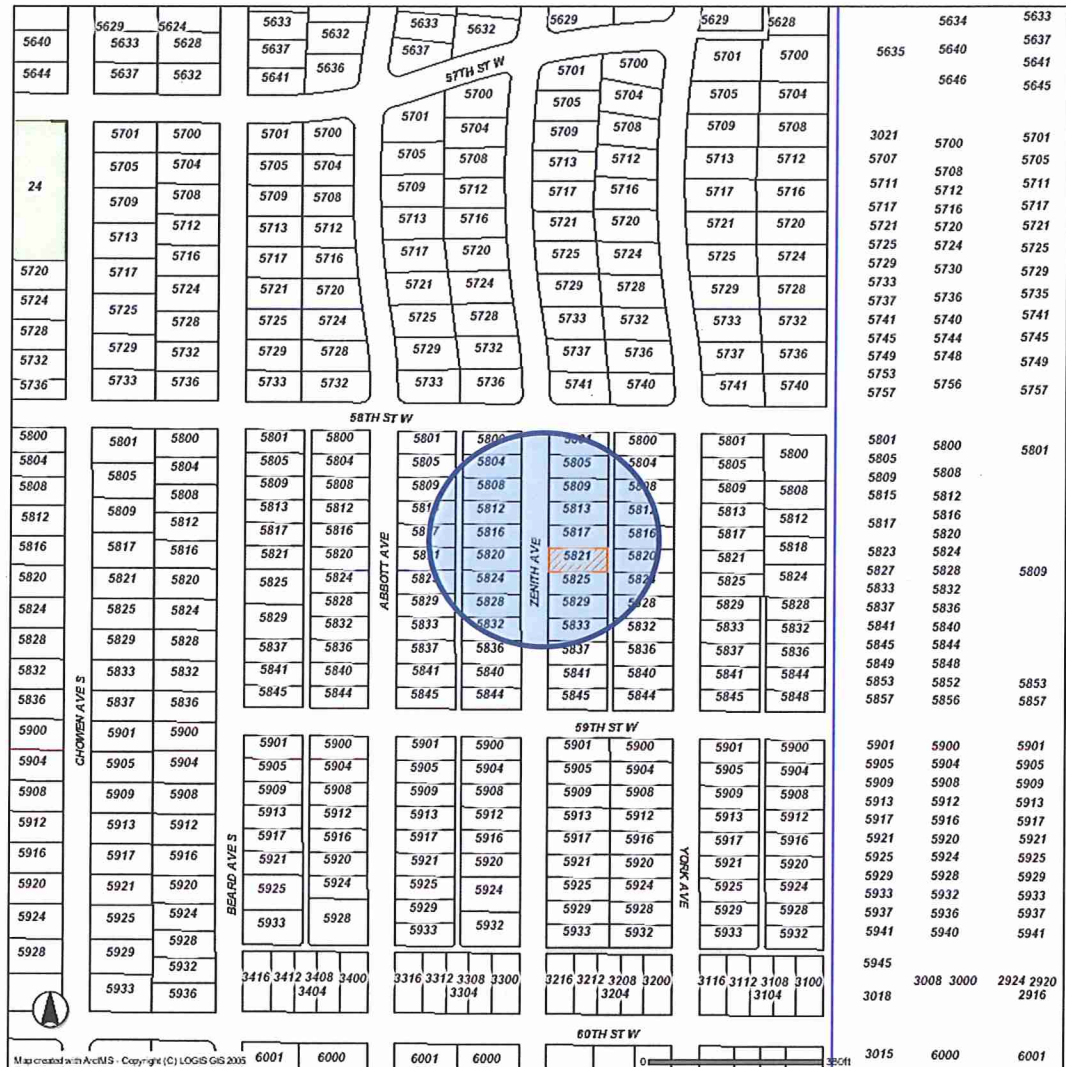
- I. Request for parking restrictions in the area of 5821 Zenith Avenue.

This request comes from the relative of the resident who lives at 5821 Zenith Avenue. The requestor states that they require Metro Mobility bus to pick up/drop off in front of the residence for travel. The requestor has noticed that sometimes vehicles park in front of the residence, making pick up/drop off difficult. The requestor was interested in finding a solution that would always allow the mobility bus to park in front of the residence. Photos are provided below.

Zenith Avenue is a local roadway with an Average Daily Traffic (ADT) of 135 vehicles, and an 85th percentile speed of 20.6 MPH. It is a 28 foot wide bituminous street with no curb and gutter. There are currently no parking restrictions in the area.

The TSC discussed using signs that state, "No parking, loading zone" in the area. There are other areas where, "no parking, loading zone" signs are used for Metro Mobility buses.

Staff recommends the approval of "No parking, loading zone" at 5821 Zenith Avenue.



Map: Zenith Avenue near 58th Street



Photo: 5821 Zenith looking south



Photo: 5821 Zenith looking north



Photo: 66th Street and Southdale Road, looking northwest



Photo: 66th Street and Southdale Road, looking east

Marked pedestrian crosswalks can be enhanced as outlined in the City of Edina Local Traffic Control section. It states:

Marked Pedestrian Crosswalks

- *Marking for crosswalks will be established by measuring the "Vehicle Gap Time". This is the total number of gaps between vehicular traffic recorded during the average five minute period in the peak hour. Criteria for markings are:*
 - *More than five gaps – pavement marking and signage only.*
 - *Four to five gaps – add activated pedestal mounted flasher.*
 - *Less than three gaps – add activated overhead mounted flasher*

The gaps counted in the area averaged 4 gaps during the peak hour at 5 P.M.. This crosswalk would qualify for an activated pedestal mounted flasher.

66th Street West is classified as a Collector Street with an ADT of 9823 vehicles and an 85th percentile speed of 33.5 MPH. It is a 38 foot wide bituminous street with insurmountable curb and gutter on both sides. Sidewalks are on both sides and marked crosswalks at Southdale Road. There is no report of the crash involving pedestrians.

Staff recommends approval of installation of activated pedestal mounted flasher for the crosswalk located at 66th Street West and Southdale Road.

SECTION B:

Requests on which the Committee recommends denial:

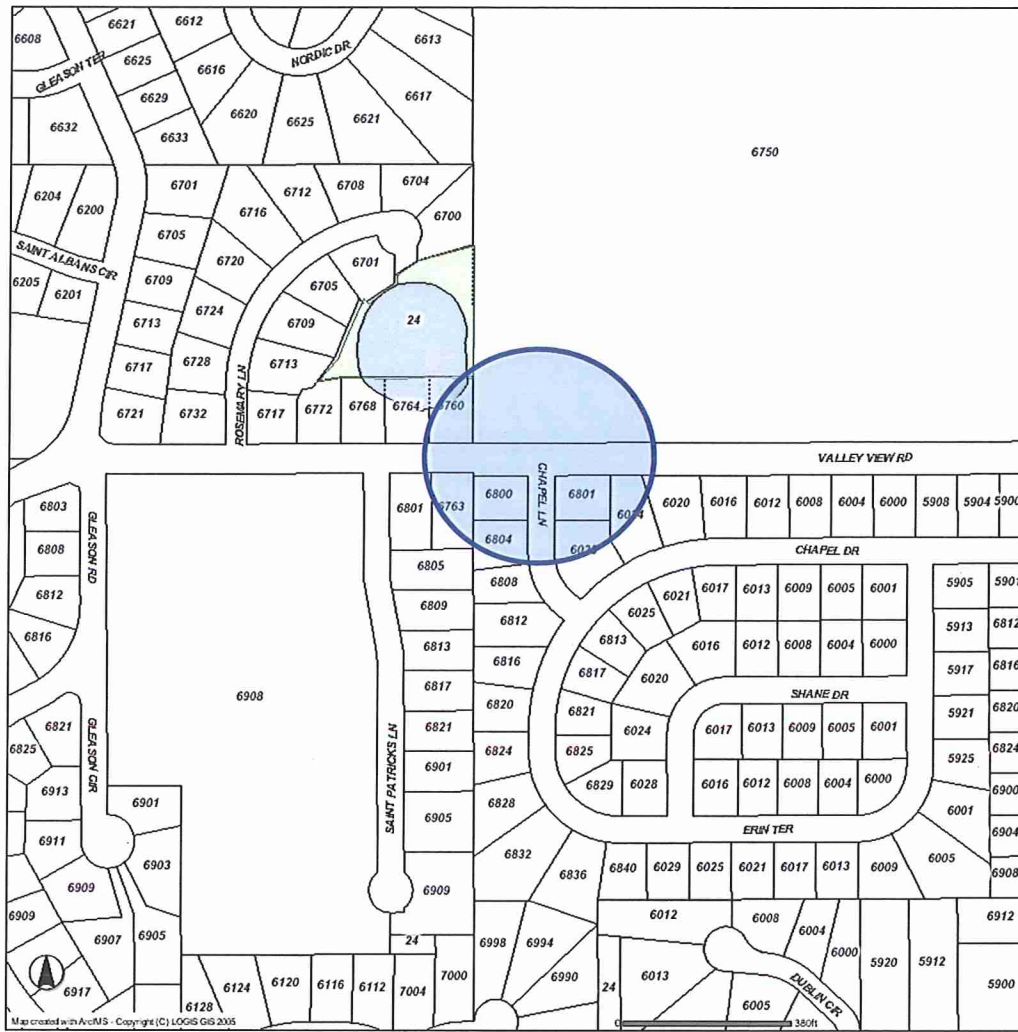
At this time, there are no requests that are recommended for denial.

SECTION C:

Requests that are referred to a later date:

- I. Request for pedestrian improvements at the intersection of Valley View Road and Chapel Lane.

This request is from a crossing guard supervisor for the school. The requestor states that vehicles are not yielding to pedestrians in the crosswalk.



Map: Valley View Road and Chapel Lane



Photo: Chapel Lane and Valley View Road, looking west



Photo: Valley View Road, looking north

The criterion for placement of crosswalks and type of control is outlined within the City of Edina Local Traffic Control list. It states:

Marked Pedestrian Crosswalks

- *Marked crosswalks are placed at locations that are unusually hazardous or at locations not readily apparent as having pedestrian movement.*
- *Marked crosswalks will only be placed in an area that has in excess of 20 pedestrians crossing for a minimum of two hours during any eight hour period.*
- *Marking for crosswalks will be established by measuring the "Vehicle Gap Time". This is the total number of gaps between vehicular traffic recorded during the average five minute period in the peak hour. Criteria for markings are:*
 - *More than five gaps – pavement marking and signage only.*
 - *Four to five gaps – add activated pedestal mounted flasher.*
 - *Less than three gaps – add activated overhead mounted flasher*

After discussion, staff concluded that further study is needed. Staff will gather additional traffic counts, along with discussing issue with the school district.

SECTION D:

Other traffic safety issues handled.

1. Request for speed counts to be done on 66th Street West near the intersection of Wilryan Avenue. Requestor states that vehicles are speeding through the area. 66th Street West has an ADT of 4297 vehicles and an 85th of 31.8 MPH. Speed counts were taken and forwarded to Edina Police Department (EPD) for enforcement.
2. Request for speed counts on Code Avenue near Porter Lane. Code Avenue has an ADT of 631 vehicles and an 85th of 25.6 MPH. Speed counts were taken, and forwarded to EPD for enforcement.
3. Call from a resident about traffic volumes in Cedars of Edina Apartment complex. A voicemail was left with the resident, who has not called back. That parking lot is a private lot, which is not controlled by the City of Edina.
4. Call from a resident about residential construction parking. Resident states that vehicles from construction are parking on both sides of the street and possibly causing a safety issue. Resident would like temporary parking restrictions until the residential construction is completed. Resident was forwarded to EPD, who place temporary parking restriction signs.
5. Call from a resident about construction parking. Resident was interested in knowing the options when construction vehicles begin to park near a project. Resident was forwarded to the Redevelopment Coordinator.
6. Call from a resident regarding construction around Xerxes Avenue and TH 62. Resident was forwarded to Hennepin County, who is managing construction in the area.

**MINUTES OF
CITY OF EDINA, MINNESOTA
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JULY 18, 2013
6:00 P.M.**

ROLL CALL Answering roll call was members Bass, Iyer, Janovy, LaForce, Nelson, and Whited.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion was made by member Janovy and seconded by member LaForce to approve the meeting agenda.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 20, 2013 – Approved as corrected.

Motion was made by member Bass and seconded by member Whited to approve the revised minutes of June 20, 2013. All voted aye. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY COMMENT – None.

REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety Fund (PACS) Update

Transportation planner Mark Nolan presented the following short, medium and long term plans for the PACS fund:

Short Term

- Prepare strategy for utilization of PACS fund
- Finalize Sidewalk Priority Plan criteria
- 2013 Sidewalk/Non-Motorized Transportation Facilities (NMTF) projects
 - School Road Sidewalk
 - Vernon Avenue Bike Lanes
 - Ped-activated pedestal-mounted flashers (Rosland Park, Edina High and Valley View Middle Schools)
- Plan for 2014 sidewalk/other NMTF projects
 - Birchcrest B Neighborhood: Valley View & Normandale Road Sidewalks
 - Strachauer Park D Neighborhood: W. 62nd Street Sidewalk
 - Morningside B Neighborhood: W. 42nd Street, Alder Drive & Scott Terrace Sidewalks
 - Ped-activated overhead mounted flasher: mid-block crossing at 69th (Southdale-Galleria)

Medium-Long Term

- Prepare Living Streets Plan and coordinate with PACS Fund (Sidewalk Priority Plan)
- Determine priority projects for future years
- Update Sidewalk/Pedestrian Facilities map
- Prepare for Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan update
- Develop public input/outreach procedure

2014 Work Plan Update

Director Houle said the only change was to the France Avenue Intersections Improvement Project to reflect the construction delay until 2014. He said they will need to finalize the plan and recommendation to City Council by August.

Traffic Safety Committee Report of July 3, 2013

Brief discussion ensued regarding Sections A.1, A.2, and C.1.

Updates

Student Members - None

Bike Edina Task Force

Member Janovy said they continue to have discussion on their bylaws and to work on the Bicycle Community Friendly application.

Living Streets Working Group

Chair Nelson said on July 16, they updated the City Council on the draft Living Streets Policy and on their visits to boards and commissions that they've presented the policy to. He said the City Council approved the Living Streets Advisory Group and they are looking for volunteers; currently, there are approximately 10-12 volunteers and they will begin meeting soon.

Members Bass and Janovy suggested creating a Living Streets work plan that would include projects that other boards and commissions are working on that are Living Streets related. Chair Nelson will draft an email to the chairs of other boards and commissions to this effect.

Transportation Options Working Group

Member White said their next phase is to work on funding thru the Health and Human Services grant process which is due August 31. Discussion ensued regarding whether or not to keep the working group going and the conclusion was that the working group had completed its work. After discussion, **motion was made by member Whited to disband the Transportation Options Working Group and the motion was seconded by member LaForce. All voted aye. Motion carried.**

Communications Committee

a. Community Transformation Grant

Member Bass said the \$5,000 grant she referred to last month was the Statewide Health Improvement Program grant and not the Community Transformation Grant. She said they are discussing ways to use the funds and will have an update in August.

Member LaForce asked for an update on the communications plan for the France Avenue Intersections Improvement that they reviewed and offered comments on. Director Houle said the plan is not finalized yet because they are still working on the urban design piece. He said they are moving forward on generating the Frequently Asked Questions and it will be routed to the committee for review before being posted to the website.

CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS

A. Correspondence relating to transportation issues –

A letter was received from resident Dr. Frank Wei requesting a sidewalk on 66th St W. Director Houle said this location is not on the Sidewalk Plan and it is not scheduled for reconstruction any time soon. Member Iyer said the location would make a good network connection.

CHAIR AND COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Member Iyer said he would like to participate in the Living Streets Advisory Group but not as a volunteer.

Member Whited asked Director Houle when 58th St. W. is scheduled for reconstruction because the asphalt is eroding. He said it is scheduled for 2014.

Chair Nelson said on 66th St. W., west of TH-100, there is quite a large bump in the road. Director Houle will check to

see what has caused the bump.

Member Laforce asked if there were any crash data for Benton Ave as you exit TH-100 south. He said this intersection continues to be unsafe. Member Janovy added that it is too wide for a two-lane roadway. Director Houle said he will add this intersection to their workload for evaluation.

Member Janovy said she submitted a sidewalk petition to City Council on July 16. She asked if it could be incorporated into the 2014 project that is scheduled. Director Houle said staff knew the petition was coming and is already working to see if it can be incorporated.

STAFF COMMENTS

- Commissioner Braden resigned effective today.
- The neighborhood reconstruction projects are progressing on schedule despite the weather.
- The School Road sidewalk RFP was approved by City Council July 16.
- One bid was received for France Avenue Intersections Improvements and it was \$600,000 higher than estimated; staff consulted with MnDOT to see if the federal funds would be affected if they were to reject the bid and rebid; this is not the case and on July 16, City Council accepted staff's recommendation to rebid in the fall with construction in 2014. A second meeting was held for the Urban Design piece of this project and a third is scheduled for August 21, 7-9 p.m.
- Hennepin County is still on schedule to mill and overlay Vernon Avenue; the Penn Avenue Bridge redecking is starting Monday, July 22-October 22, and traffic is detoured to Xerxes Avenue. Xerxes Avenue Bridge will be redecked next year and staff is continuing to work with the County to improve lane designs.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

ATTENDANCE

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ATTENDANCE - 2013																
NAME	TERM	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Work Session	# of Mtgs	Attendance %
Meetings/Work Sessions		1	1	1	1	1	1	1						1	8	
														7/16		
Bass, Katherine	2/1/2014		1	1	1	1	1	1						1	7	88%
Braden, Ann*	2/1/2014	1	1		1	1	1								5	63%
Franzen, Nathan	2/1/2016	1	1		1	1								1	5	63%
Iyer, Iyer	2/1/2015	1	1	1		1	1	1						1	7	88%
Janovy, Jennifer	2/1/2014	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						1	8	100%
LaForce, Tom	2/1/2015	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						1	8	100%
Nelson, Paul	2/1/2016	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						1	8	100%
Schweiger, Steven	student	1	1			1									3	38%
Sierks, Caroline	student	1		1	1	1	1								5	63%
Spanhake, Dawn	2/1/2016			1		1	1								3	50%
Whited, Courtney	2/1/2015	1	1	1	1	1		1						1	7	88%